AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims below replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

1. – 6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) A ~~data~~ character input keyboard, comprising a key layout corresponding to a 101/104 English keyboard or a 106/109 Japanese keyboard adapted to include:

a lowermost key array having a pair of left and right keys centrally juxtaposed in [[a]] respective home ~~position~~ positions for left and right thumbs of a user, one of said left and right keys being an ENTER/RETURN key and the other one of said left and right keys being a SPACE key, said respective home positions for the left and right thumbs being horizontally aligned with each other in said lowermost key array;

a middle character key array having an extreme right key being a BACKSPACE key; and

an uppermost numerical/symbol character key array having an extreme right key being a DELETE key,

said ENTER/RETURN key, said SPACE key, said BACKSPACE key, and said DELETE key being a normal state of said keyboard without any key reassignment.

8. (Currently Amended) A ~~data~~ <u>character</u> input keyboard according to claim 7, wherein said left key of said lowermost key array is said ENTER/RETURN key, and said right key of said lowermost key array is said SPACE key.

9. (Previously Presented) A data input keyboard according to claim 7, wherein in the key array groups, from the uppermost key array to the lowermost key array, concerned with only character keys including a SPACE key.